

## Message Text

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53

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 OPIC-12 EB-11 AID-20 TVA-01

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SWF-02 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /116 W  
----- 097213

R 291344Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5612

UNCLAS CARACAS 8433

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR, VE  
SUBJECT: FERTILIZER SITUATION

REF: STATE 95838, CARACAS 4535

1. FERTILIZER PRODUCER NITROVEN HAS DECLINED OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY TVA THROUGH AID. NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL, ING. IVAN GARRIDO SOTO, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN COMPANY'S ENGINEERING STAFF, THE HEAD OF WHICH IS A U.S. ENGINEER, AND HOPE THAT PRODUCTION WILL SOON APPROACH CAPACITY. WHILE DECLINING ASSISTING AT THIS TIME, ING. GARRIDO WAS GRATEFUL FOR OFFER AND SAID HE WOULD BEAR IT IN MIND SHOULD FUTURE NEED ARISE. HE INDICATED THAT AREA OF COMPANY'S GREATEST WEAKNESS IS NOW FELT TO BE MARKETING AND OTHER COMMERCIAL ASPECTS.

2. OFFICIAL DESCRIBED THE STATUS OF NITROGEN'S VARIOUS PLANTS. ONE OF TWO AMMONIA PLANTS AT EL TABLAZO HAS BEEN OPERATING AT 90 PERCENT OF 900 MT/DAY CAPACITY SINCE MAY. SECOND AMMONIA PLANT STILL SCHEDULED TO START-UP IN MID-SEPTEMBER, 1974. TWO UREA PLANTS, EACH WITH RATED CAPACITY OF 1,200 MT/DAY, WHICH OPERATE IN SEQUENCE WITH AMMONIA PLANTS ARE EXPECTED TO BEING OPERATION WITHIN SEVERAL MONTHS. PRESENT AMMONIA PRODUCTION HAS BEEN SOLD TO US., COSTA RICA, SPAIN AND UNCLASSIFIED

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BELGIUM. SHIPMENTS LAST YEAR WERE MADE TO MEXICO AND

BRAZIL BEFORE BREAKDOWN SUSPENDED OPERATION. FERTILIZER  
PLANT AT MORON HAS ENCOUNTERED DISAPPOINTING DELAYS  
DURING CONSTRUCTION OF EXPANDED FACILITIES. COMPLETION  
IS NOW EXPECTED BY LATE 1974 OR EARLY 1975. ING.  
GARRIDO CONFIRMED NITROVEN'S INTENTION, ANNOUNCED IN PRESS  
REPORTS ON 26 AUGUST, TO CONSTRUCT TWO ADDITIONAL  
AMMONIA PLANTS AT EL TABLAZO WHICH WILL DOUBLE PRODUCTION.  
NO TIMETABLE FOR CONSTRUCTION OR START-UP  
WERE GIVEN.  
MCCLINTOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ENGINEERING, PRESS COMMENTS, CONSTRUCTION, FERTILIZERS, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, AMMONIA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D740239-1134  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FERTILIZER SITUATION  
**TAGS:** EAGR, VE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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